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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Venezuela

DATE DISTR. 28 February 1949

SUBJECT Strike Threat in Lake Area

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ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO.

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1. The mimeographed declaration calling for a general strike on 25 February 1949, which was issued by the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Venezuela (CTV) in Maracaibo on 24 February,\* appeared in circulation among the workers in the Cabimas area early on the morning of the 25th. It carried the typed signatures of Luis Tovar, Secretary General of the CTV, Ismael Ordaz, Secretary of Organization, and Carlos Behrens, Secretary of Agrarian Affairs. Besides the usual reasons for a strike, such as reduction of wages, violation of agreements, transfers of personnel, the handbill complained of the government's failure to enforce respect for the rights and interests of the workers as guaranteed by the Constitution and international agreements and spoke of the government's alleged determination to liquidate the syndical movement in Venezuela. This circular is causing increased agitation among the workers.
2. Lieutenant Martinez, second in command of the Cabimas military establishment, was alerted on 25 February as Gamez Calcano and Lt. Colonel Roberto Casanova were out of the area for the day. Operations in the entire Lake area were normal on Saturday, 26 February 1949.\*\*
3. The Creole Petroleum workers who staged a walkout at Cabimas on 24 February returned to work on 25 February. On 26 February it was reported that the night shift at the Creole docks had reported for work.

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Comment. As of 27 February there were no indications that the strike would take place, although a rumor still persisted that it would be called for 28 February. Current opinion in Maracaibo is that the possibilities of a strike are now remote. In Cabimas it is believed that the strike threat is lessening.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

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